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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
<sup>2</sup>U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.  
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<sup>3</sup>  
X ERADICATION OF THE HOG DISEASE, VESICULAR EXANTHEMA, IN  
THE UNITED STATES X

Rigid enforcement of Federal and State laws and regulations, designed to prevent the spread of Vesicular Exanthema in the United States and its eventual complete eradication, preclude the possibility of Vesicular Exanthema being transmitted to other countries through importations of pork and other hog products from the United States. All meat products destined for export from the United States must meet the rigid inspection standards of the United States Department of Agriculture (which are the most exacting and thorough of any country in the world).

Vesicular Exanthema in the United States first received wide-spread attention during 1952 when the disease spread from California, where its presence had been known since April 1932, to other areas of the country. During the long time that it had been present in California it had not been of great concern to livestock producers in the United States. The disease is not of a type which causes large death losses of hogs, does not directly affect other livestock and is not communicable to humans.

During the summer of 1952 when the first outbreak of Vesicular Exanthema occurred in the center of the Corn Belt, the heart of the surplus producing hog area, it was considered a problem of national significance and effective steps were taken to stamp out the disease in the country as a whole. These measures have been unusually effective and the disease is limited to a very small area in the United States at the present time.

Control and Eradication Methods

A comprehensive program to rid the United States of this disease included: (1) Federal quarantines restricting the interstate movement of swine and pork products from infected areas supplemented by State quarantines to restrict intrastate movements; (2) cleaning and disinfecting railroad cars and feed, water and rest stations as well as farms; (3) closing and disinfecting of suspected stockyards, and maintaining close inspection of all swine in public stockyards; (4) slaughter of infected and exposed animals; (5) special processing of carcasses of exposed animals by which they were subjected to sufficient heat to destroy the virus and prevent perpetuating the disease through feeding infected raw pork in garbage; (6) assisting the States to see that all garbage fed to swine was properly heat-treated prior to feeding; (7) restricting interstate movement of swine fed garbage; and (8) requiring cleaning and disinfection of all facilities used by swine when shipped interstate.





Quarantine Areas

In November 1954 Vesicular Exanthema was present in only a very small area of the United States. Federal quarantines restricting the movement of hogs from the areas where the disease had been present were in force only in parts of 6 States of the 48. None of the quarantine areas were in leading hog producing States. The quarantine areas were in the Southern part of California where most of the pork consumed is derived from hogs produced outside the State; and a few small areas in the States of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York.

The manner in which hogs move from farms to slaughter plants in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey and New York is in sharp contrast to the way they are marketed in the North Central portion of the United States (the Corn Belt). The Corn Belt is the large surplus producer of hogs. Hogs or the pork from this source move eastward and westward, and to a lesser extent southward, to supply consumers in the thickly populated cities of the Northeast and the population centers on the Pacific Coast. Supplies of pork for export to foreign markets mostly originate on the farms of the Corn Belt, which are far from the present quarantine centers and where Vesicular Exanthema has never been a serious menace.

Thorough precautions are taken so that pork from VE infected hogs is subject to processing so that it will not be a carrier of the disease either if consumed in the United States or exported. Federal regulations being rigorously enforced prohibit the movement of hogs or hog products from quarantine areas to other States or in international commerce unless the products are specially processed. Laws of the individual States prohibit the transport of hogs or pork from quarantine areas in the State to other parts of the State. Unless local State laws provide for burying or burning of hogs exposed or affected with V.E. such hogs or products therefrom may move outside the State under Federal Governmental supervision for slaughter and special processing of the pork products to make sure it is entirely free from the presence of the virus.

If great strides continue to be made as they have in the past two years Vesicular Exanthema should be soon completely eradicated from the United States. Producers have been increasing hog production with confidence and the increased hog production is apparent in increased hog slaughter and larger supplies of pork and other hog products for consumers. The increased output has resulted in lower prices for hog products in the United States than have prevailed in the past several years. The large grain production points to continued large pork output in future years and the United States will continue to be a dependable source of hog products for meat importing countries.

[illegible]



### Hog Casings

Animal casings are not considered by the United States Department of Agriculture as a way in which virus animal diseases are spread in the United States or between countries. The method of handling casings commercially, the thorough cleansing, preparation and subsequent use in smoked or cured products are important in diminishing the danger of transmitting virus that affect animals. This belief is borne out by the significant fact that the United States has imported for years animal casings from about 40 countries, many of which have foot-and-mouth and other virus diseases, without introducing infection and does not restrict the movement of domestic casings between States.

This information is of interest to foreign countries concerned with the presence of Vesicular Exanthema in the United States and with the quarantine aspects for the control of this disease of hogs. The experience of the United States in importing casings from many parts of the world, the applicability of quarantine regulations to domestic casings and the attitude of sanitary officials in the United Kingdom, a large importer of United States and other casings, should assist in alleviating apprehension with respect to imports of hog casings from the United States.

Trade in animal casings is important to many other countries as well as to the United States. Imports valued at nearly \$20 million originating from about 40 countries, many of which have foot-and-mouth disease as well as other diseases not existing in the United States, were admitted in 1952. At the same time United States exports of casings, mostly from hogs, exceeded \$10 million and went nearly to every country of the world. Exports continued throughout the peak of V.E. infection in the United States in 1952 and 1953 and no outbreaks were reported from abroad. During 20 years of experience with V.E. there has never been a case of transmission of the disease from salted hog casings.





